

Response filed October 7, 2010

Reply to OA dated July 12, 2010

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4 and 5, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A metal jet apparatus for jetting ~~dot-like spherical~~ molten metal droplets, the metal jet apparatus comprising:

a discharge nozzle provided therein with molten metal,
a discharge port for jetting said molten metal from one end of said discharge nozzle, and
a pressing body for pressing said molten metal from the other end of said discharge nozzle in which said pressing body intermittently presses said molten metal in said discharge nozzle and jets said molten metal from said discharge port,

wherein said discharge nozzle includes a curved surface shaped inner wall which forms a focal point at said discharge port or in the vicinity of said discharge port, and
said molten metal jetted from said discharge port is ~~dot-like spherical~~ molten metal droplets.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A metal jet apparatus for jetting ~~dot-like spherical~~ molten metal droplets, the metal jet apparatus comprising:

a discharge nozzle provided therein with molten metal,
a discharge port for jetting said molten metal from one end of said discharge nozzle, and

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a pressing body for pressing said molten metal from the other end of said discharge nozzle in which said pressing body intermittently presses said molten metal in said discharge nozzle and jets said molten metal from said discharge port,

wherein said pressing body includes a curved surface shaped inner wall which forms a focal point at said discharge port or in the vicinity of said discharge port, and
said molten metal jetted from the discharge port is ~~dot-like~~ spherical molten metal droplets.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A metal jet method comprising the steps of:
jetting molten metal from a discharge nozzle in a form of droplet, and supplying inert gas to a peripheral portion of a discharge port of said discharge nozzle.

Claim 7 (Original): A jet apparatus according to the metal jet apparatus in claim 4, wherein said molten metal is replaced by a mixture of liquid and metal powder or non-metal powder, or liquid.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A jet apparatus according to the metal jet apparatus in claim 5, wherein said molten metal is replaced by a mixture of liquid and metal powder or non-metal powder, or liquid.